सूरत हवाई अड्डे का आधुनिकीकरण

* 9. **श्री गोपालसिंह जी० सोलंकी** : क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सूरत हवाई अड्डा इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के विमानों के प्रचालन के अनुकूल नहीं है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसे इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के विमानों के प्रचालन के अनुकूल बनाने के लिए क्या प्रयास किये गये हैं ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री। (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण की सूरत हवाई अडडे, जो कि गुजरात सरकार का है, के विकास की कोई योजना नहीं है ।

Review of the policy of liberalised economy

*10. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent economists consider that liberalisation of the economy has begun to manifest in the form of steep rise in unemployment in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government would review the said policy in consultation with those economists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Economists have expressed divergent views on the effects of the policy of liberalisation on the economy. While some eocnomists have expressed the view that liberalisation would result in a steep rise in unemployment, others are of the considered opinion that this would result in a faster growth of the economy, and of employment, in the long run. As there is no firm statistical evidence of any perceptible rise in unemployment, besides the usual historical one, the view of some economists as to a steep rise in unemployment after liberalisation could only be the result of their perception of the effects of liberalisation, on the economy in general and on the employment situation in particular.

(b) The Government have repeatedly made it clear that liberalisation of the economy would not result in any signicant rise in unemployment as no retrenchment of existing employees would be permitted as a result of the New Economic Policy, though redeployment of the work force may take place in order to meet the requirements of modernisation and restructuring. The Government have already operationalised the National Renewal Fund to provide assistance for retraining and redeployment of workers as also to provide a social security net to the labour force. Even so, the option of consultations with economists and other eminent citizens is always kept open by the Government in order to correct any adverse effects of the policies.

Assistance for development of Tourism in Karnataka

*11. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rationale behind providing financial assistance to States for development for tourism projects;

(b) whether this has been adhered to in regard to the meagre allocation to Karnataka tourism projects all these years; and

(c) whether Government would consider the infrastructural facilities already available in Karnataka, besides further scope for development of tourism, and sanction crash projects to tap the foreign exchange earning potential to its fullest extent?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI

GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibilty of State Governments. However, the central Goevrnment extends financial assistance for supplementing the efforts of State Governments in augmenting/creating tourism infrastructure facilities. Such assistance is given on projects project basis, dependent upon their merits, interse priorities and aavilabilty of funds. Funds were sanctioned to Government of Karnataka for development of tourism infrastructure, based on the projects/schemes posed by them.

Time slot to private complaines/persons on Metro/private channel

*12. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies and persons have applied for private Channel on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what are the names thereof;

(c) what is the criteria as well as mechanism for the allotment of private channel on Doordarshan; and

(d) what is the number of parties have been allotted private channel on Doordarshan including the Metro Channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan only invited applications for allotment of time slots between 8.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. on its existing metro channels at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(b) The list is attached. [*See* Appendix, CLXVI, Annexure No. 1]

(c) The criteria is attached (Annexure-III). [*See* Apuendix CLXVI, Annexure No. 2]

(d) Forty one.

Time limit on local telephone calls

*13. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a time limit on local phone calls;

(b) whether several consumer protection Groups have protested against this decision; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw this Scheme in the interest of the telephone users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, in all electronic exchanges in systems with an equipped capacity of 30,000 lines or more.

(b) Yes, Sir. A few representations have been received.

(c) The department has examined them. Since this scheme gives an advantage of decongestion resulting in better efficiency, it is not proposed to withdraw the scheme.

Modification of the open sky policy

*14. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to change the "Open Sky Policy"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The 'Open Sky' policy of the Government is in respect of air cargo flights only. There is no proposal at present to make any changes in this policy.